

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102656
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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PERP, TU, US, CY

SUBJECT: TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ACTING SECRETARY

REF: ANKARA 2871

1. AT HIS REQUEST, TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL MET WITH
ACTING SECRETARY APRIL 20 TO DISCUSS CONGRESSIONAL CONSID-
ERATION OF ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST TO REPEAL REMAINING EM-
BARGO RESTRICTIONS ON TURKEY. ALSO PRESENT AT 20 MINUTE
MEETING WERE UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS NEWSOM,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 102656

EUR/SE DIRECTOR EWING, AND TURKISH DESK OFFICER SMITH.

2. ALONG LINES APRIL 13 PRESENTATION BY MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG
TO AMBASSADOR SPIERS (REFTEL), AMBASSADOR ESENBEL STRESSED
IMPORTANCE TO GOT OF EARLY ADMINISTRATION SUCCESS IN CON-
GRESS, AND RECALLED IMPRESSION IN ANKARA THAT THIS COULD BE
ACHIEVED BY END OF MAY. ESENBEL RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH A

SCHEDULE WAS PROBABLY UNREALISTIC AND RECALLED THAT IN 1977 SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL HAD BEEN ACTED ON BY HOUSE IN LATE MAY, BY SENATE IN JUNE, AND HAD EMERGED FROM CONFERENCE IN EARLY AUGUST. HE SAID THAT EVEN MATTER OF RE-SCHEDULING OF HEARINGS IS ATTRIBUTED IN TURKEY TO GREEK-INFLUENCED DELAYING TACTICS. ESENBEL ASKED THAT ADMINISTRATION EXPEDITE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE THE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO AND INQUIRED WHETHER SEPARATING THE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO FROM THE

SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT MIGHT NOT INCREASE THE PACE OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION.

3. ACTING SECRETARY FIRST ASKED ESENBEL TO CONVEY ONCE AGAIN HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE MOST USEFUL TALKS HE HAD IN ANKARA THREE WEEKS AGO AND FOR THE HOSPITALITY WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND OTHER TURKISH OFFICIALS HAD EXTENDED TO HIM AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

4. ACTING SECRETARY ASSURED ESENBEL THAT HAVING MADE THE DIFFICULT AND COURAGEOUS DECISION REGARDING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ANXIOUS TO PRESS FORWARD FIRMLY AND WITHOUT HESITATION AND AS RAPIDLY AS WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO A GOOD FINAL RESULT. HOWEVER, CONGRESS SETS ITS OWN PACE AND UNDUE WEIGHT SHOULD NOT BE ATTACHED TO DATE CHANGES FOR HEARINGS, ETC. THESE FREQUENTLY TAKE PLACE FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS BUT ARE BASIC-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 102656

ALLY MATTERS DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

5. CHRISTOPHER STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATING THE EMBARGO REPEAL FROM THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL. WE CONSIDERED THE BEST CHANCE OF EMBARGO REPEAL WAS TO HAVE IT PART OF AN OVERALL PACKAGE. ACTING SECRETARY SAID THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S HIRC TESTIMONY ON APRIL 6 HAD GONE WELL AND THE AFTER EFFECTS WERE POSITIVE. ANOTHER HEARING WAS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2, BUT MIGHT HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED A FEW DAYS BECAUSE OF A CONFLICT IN THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE. ACTING SECRETARY SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE HEARINGS HE AND OTHER DEPT OFFICERS HAD SEEN A NUMBER OF SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN, AND STAFF MEMBERS. FOR EXAMPLE, ON APRIL 20 HE WAS SEEING SENATOR BIDEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EUROPE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN BRIEFING SESSION AT WHITE HOUSE FOR SENATE STAFFERS.

6. ACTING SECRETARY NOTED THAT ON "UNLINKED CYPRUS FRONT" WE CONSIDERED THE RESUMPTION OF DIRECT INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS AS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. WE DID NOT HAVE FULL

PICTURE OF TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS. HE RECALLED THAT IN TALKS WITH PM ECEVIT HE HAD STATED THAT OUR CAPACITY TO SUCCEED WITH CONGRESS DEPENDED TO IMPORTANT EXTENT UPON SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS. MOVEMENT WOULD ENHANCE THE CHANCES. THE INITIAL REACTION ON THE HILL TO THE NEW TURKISH PROPOSALS HAD NOT BEEN VERY GOOD. WE WERE URGING WALDHEIM TO TRY TO GET THE TALKS GOING SO THE PARTIES COULD AT LEAST START TO PROBE THEIR DIFFERENCES. ACTING SECRETARY REITERATED THAT WE WOULD DO ALL WE COULD TO GET

THE TALKS STARTED, BUT WE HOPED THAT THE TURKISH SIDE IN ITS OWN INTEREST WOULD SHOW HOW IT COULD MOVE BEYOND INITIAL POSITIONS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 102656

7. ESENBEL SAID HE HAD ANTICIPATED THE NEGATIVE GREEK CYPRIOT REACTION WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS AIMED PRIMARILY AT INFLUENCING THE US CONGRESS AGAINST REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO.

8. ACTING SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO ENGAGE IN A DEBATE ON MOTIVES. WE ASSUMED THE SINCERITY OF BOTH PARTIES. WE HAD URGED THAT NEGOTIATIONS GO FORWARD AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. WE STRONGLY HOPED THAT THE TURKISH POSITION WOULD BE SUCH THAT IMPARTIAL OPINION COULD NOT FAIRLY CRITICIZE IT.

9. ESENBEL NOTED THAT WALDHEIM HAD SAID THAT THE TURKISH PROPOSALS WERE "SUBSTANTIAL AND CONCRETE." ACTING SECRETARY SAID WE INTENDED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH WALDHEIM NOW THAT HE HAD RETURNED TO NEW YORK.

10. IN RESPONSE TO NEWSOM QUESTION ABOUT THE TURKISH POSITION ON VAROSHA, ESENBEL SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS BEYOND WHAT HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC. THE VAROSHA PROPOSAL WAS INTENDED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF GREEKS WHO WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND HOTELS WHILE ASSURING THE SECURITY CONCERNS OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS IN THE FAMAGUSTA AREA. CHRISTOPHER

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